

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to for failing to show the control methods recited in claims 4, 10 and 12. Appropriate correction has been made to claims 4 and 10. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Kikuyama (US 6,182,455 B1).

Independent claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12 and are therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 2-5 and 7-11 are dependent on claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claim 12 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. The allowable subject matter of claim 12 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6, 13 and 14. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of the Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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